

TOWN OF HARPSWELL  
COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Meeting of August 25, 2008  
Minutes

Committee Members Present: Alan M. Shaver  
C.V. Noyes  
David I. Chipman

Town Staff Present: Melissa Swanson, Recording Secretary

The meeting opened at 3:22 PM at the Harpswell Town Office, 263 Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine.

1. There was discussion regarding the issue of the proposed Harpswell communications tower, which was approved at the Planning Board meeting of July 16, 2008. The Planning Board had decided that the issue of the “glass road” should be addressed by the Town’s engineer. Two telecommunications companies have agreed to use the tower: AT&T and US Cellular. It should be determined if the two carriers use the same modulation “scheme”.
2. The committee was provided the responses to their recent request from the community for input regarding the level of satisfaction with Comcast cable services. The letters were discussed, and the Franchise Agreement with Comcast was referred to, in particular §2.3.1 which referred to minimum density being 18 dwelling units per cable mile, and §24.2 regarding the standard drop being not more than 300’ from the feeder cable to the subscriber structure.
3. It was stated that, since Comcast is trying to sell their system, it would be in the best interest of all area towns (those that have cable service), to work together to get “maximum leverage” in working with Comcast. Mr. Noyes said he would contact the area towns which were not present at the Brunswick meeting on July 21, 2008 to discuss Comcast cable services. He also provided those present with a list of municipal communications contacts for the Town of Freeport.
4. Mr. Chipman said he would contact Cumberland County in order to obtain the details for the size/type of dish necessary to provide the level of service the Sheriff’s Department would require.
5. Mr. Shaver said he would compose a letter for Kristi Eiane, Harpswell Town Administrator, to send to Comcast regarding their Triple Play (§30 of the Franchise Agreement), that does not seem to be an available service to the Harpswell area.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 29, 2008.

Proposed Discussion: A three month extension of Harpswell's Franchise Agreement with Comcast, which is due to expire October 31, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Swanson  
Recording Secretary